

Marcia Gates Woods
5138 Cribari Place
San Jose, CA 95135

May 10, 2016

Mary George, Director of Library Services
Placer County Library Administration
350 Nevada Street
Auburn, CA 9560

RE: Proposed Loomis Library Closure
Gates Family Original Intent

Dear Ms. George:

My name is Marcia Gates Woods, and I am enclosing a copy of a letter being presented tonight to the Loomis Town Council detailing the history of the acquisition of the Loomis Library site, access road, etc. by Placer County in 1977, and explaining why the Gates family felt at the time that it was very important that there be a Loomis Library in that location.

I only learned of this proposed closure last month, and I am aware that Placer County has already granted a one-year extension to June 30th of this year. It is my understanding that the Town of Loomis is trying to withdraw from the County Library system, and start a new municipal library from "scratch". As I detail in my letter to Loomis, I am a former law librarian who has worked at university libraries, a large corporate library, and law firm libraries. I have started one law firm library from the ground up, and I know what a tremendous undertaking it involves. I am very concerned that this is a tremendous change for the residents of Loomis and the surrounding area. I think if the Loomis Library closes right when school gets out and summer begins, there is going to be a very upset populace, with good reason.

As I state in my letter, with two librarians and an educator, (my father, Earl, Sr.) in the family, we thought this Library would be a wonderful resource for the community, and be well-located behind the Veteran's Hall which my parents donated the land for after World War II. Our 50 acres in the middle of Loomis was always slated for development, even by the County, and now it appears that "The Villages at Loomis" may well bring 1,000 more residents right there next to the Library.

My father, Earl, Sr., and my brother's Earl, Jr., and Francis Gates are all deceased now; we have sold all of the property, and, obviously, I do not live there anymore. However, we all believed that this Library would remain there as an asset for Loomis, and a resource for its residents, particularly children. Now children in Loomis will have to find someone to drive them to Rocklin to go to a Library. At this time in California when we are living with increased congestion, traffic problems, and air pollution, to ask residents (especially children and seniors) to get in their cars and drive to a "magnet" library when a perfectly good library resource is already nearby is not good planning and also extremely sad.

In searching on-line, I am aware that this closure is probably part of your "Library Strategic Plan" which you must have put a lot of time and attention into preparing. I understand that funds are limited, and government entities are attempting to consolidate and restructure all their systems for maximum efficiency and cost-reduction. I suppose you consider Loomis Library as just another "small-town" library. As detailed in my letter to Loomis Town Council, just such a "small-town" Loomis Library in the 1950's led me to become a Law Librarian. In 2016, with public services being reduced across the country and State, I am not sure abandoning a perfectly good structure in a central location with proposed major development in the works right next door is the correct choice now.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this Library closure. There was no Town of Loomis in 1977. We negotiated in good faith with the understanding from the Escrow Instructions that specified "Library

Site", and Exhibit "C" Special Conditions #8 "The purpose of this purchase is to construct a County Branch Library with related parking for both the Library and Justice Court, utility and roadway improvements". We contributed \$9,500 toward those roadway and utility improvements. We allowed access into our property so that there could be a Library there. I am very saddened that the County has decided to abandon this resource and force Loomis to make other arrangements in order to have library services for their residents and the surrounding area.

I have sent copies of the enclosed letter, and of this letter to you to the Placer County Board of Supervisors. I am sure you are constrained in what you can do, but I urge you, as a fellow librarian, to remember that a library is an integral part of any community, and a major change such as the closure of the Loomis Library will be a major disruption, particularly for children, and will elicit very strong feelings among the residents of Loomis.

Respectfully,



Marcia Gates Woods

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Town of Loomis
Loomis Friends of the Library